

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/471,189

Examiner

Philip J. Sobutka

Applicant(s)

MIYAMARU ET AL.

Art Unit

2684

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 11-12-2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Consider claims 1,6. The nearest prior art as shown in Kaoru and Koichi and Yamaha fails to teach a vehicular communication apparatus comprising: at least one helmet worn by an operator of a vehicle, said at least one helmet incorporated with a speaker and a microphone mounted thereon, and further including a helmet side infrared transmitter/receiver disposed in a cabinet extending forwardly from a jaw portion of the helmet and connected to the speaker and the microphone; a vehicle body provided with a vehicle body side transmitter/receiver for carrying out infrared communication with the helmet side infrared transmitter/receiver; wireless communication means arranged with communication operating means separately from the wireless communication means in at a position operably accessible to the operator during operation of the vehicle; and the vehicle body side infrared transmitter/receiver being disposed on a rear surface of a handlebar adjacent to the grip so that signals emitting from/to the transmitter/receiver pass directly over a shoulder of the operator of the vehicle to/from a jaw portion of a helmet of a rear passenger of the vehicle.

Consider claim 11, The nearest prior art as shown in Kaoru and Yamaha and Hodson fails to teach a vehicular communication apparatus, comprising: a helmet worn by a passenger of a handlebar type small-sized vehicle, said helmet incorporated with a speaker and a microphone and mounted with a helmet side infrared ray transmitter/receiver disposed in a cabinet extending forwardly from a jaw portion of the helmet and connected to the speaker and the microphone; a vehicle body is arranged

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with a vehicle body side infrared transmitter/receiver for carrying out infrared ray communication with the helmet side infrared ray transmitter/receiver and a cabinet having a shape that is rectangular disposed along a section of a rear surface of a handlebar adjacent to a grip, the cabinet housing the vehicle body side transmitter/receiver, a light emitting element, a light receiving element, a visual display, and communication operating means, the light emitting element and the light receiving element being disposed above the visual display on a rear face of the cabinet.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip J. Sobutka whose telephone number is 703-305-4825, after March 2005 the number will change to (571) 272-7887. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on 703-308-7745, the fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Philip Sobutka
(703) 305-4825

April 24, 2005


NAY MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER